AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 20-21 with the following amended paragraph:

Industrial Applicability

It was confirmed that the compound of the present invention has an HDAC inhibitory activity and shows an inhibitory activity of cell proliferation against human cancer cells as shown in the Experimental Examples described below. Therefore, the compound of the present invention is effective for treatment and improvement of diseases and pathogenic conditions related to acetylation of histone, in particular, tumor or cell proliferative diseases, and further ~~an agent for prevention and treatment of~~ progressive neurodegenerative diseases such as Huntington's disease. Examples of the cell proliferation disease include, for example, infectious diseases, autoimmune diseases and dermatologic diseases. Particularly, since the compound of the present invention has a good inhibitory activity of cell proliferation against human cancer cells, it is useful as an antitumor agent. Furthermore, the compound of the present invention is also useful in promoting efficiency in the vector introduction in gene therapy and enhancing the expression of an introduced gene.

At page 22, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 6-13 with the following amended paragraph:

(2) Assay for HDAC inhibitory activity

The biotinylated [^{3}H] acetyl-histone H4 peptide (aa 14-21: Biotin-Gly-Ala-[^{3}H-acetyl]Lys-Arg-His-Arg-[^{3}H- acetyl]Lys-Val-amide (SEQ ID NO:1) (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech Co.), hereinafter abbreviated as [^{3}H] acetyl-histone) synthesized in accordance with

Nare, B. *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* **267**, 390-396, 1999 was used as a substrate for HDAC inhibitory

assay.